

CHIPPENHAM

1967

BOROUGH

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

C.L. Broomhead, T.D., M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

BOROUGH

Offices: Municipal Offices,
Hankin Park,
Chippenham

Tel: No. Chippenham 2831, Extn. 49.

CHIPPENHAM

Also: Medical Officer of Health for the

THE

Boroughs of Calne and Marlborough
and

Rural District of Calne & Chippenham
Marlborough.

ANNUAL REPORT

Assistant County Medical Officer.

of the

School Medical Officer.

(b) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

S.G.W. Williamson, Cert. S.I.P.H.E.

and

(c) SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A.E. Evans, B.M.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

for the

(d) YEAR ENDING 31st. DECEMBER, 1967.

C.W. Pitsen, Cert. S.I.B.,
Meat & Other Foods Inspector's Cert. S.S.I.,
Smoke Inspector's Diploma, S.S.K.

P.M. Dale, Cert. S.I.B.,
Meat & Other Foods Inspector's Cert. S.S.I.,
Smoke Inspector's Diploma S.S.S.

J.W.K. Rivers, Cert. S.I.B.,
Meat & Other Foods Inspector's Cert. S.S.I.

(e) The Committee of the Borough Council dealing directly with
Public Health matters is:-

The Public Health and Highways Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

C.L. Broomhead, T.D., M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Offices: Municipal Offices,
Monkton Park,
Chippenham

Tel: No. Chippenham 2821, Extn. 49.

Also: Medical Officer of Health for the:
Boroughs of Calne and Malmesbury
and
Rural District of Calne & Chippenham
Rural District of Malmesbury.
Assistant County Medical Officer.
School Medical Officer.

(b) SECRETARY TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

S.G.V. Williamson, Cert. R.I.P.H.H.

(c) SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

A.E. Eames, D.M.A., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

(d) ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

C.W. Pitman, Cert. S.I.B.,
Meat & Other Foods Inspector's Cert. R.S.I.
Smoke Inspector's Diploma, R.S.H.

P.M. Dale, Cert. S.I.B.,
Meat & Other Foods Inspector's Cert. R.S.I.
Smoke Inspector's Diploma R.S.H.

J.W.M. Rivers, Cert. S.I.B.
Meat & Other Foods Inspector's Cert. R.S.I.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

(a)

C.I. Broomhead, T.D., M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Offices: Municipal Offices,
Monkton Park,
Chippendale

Tel: No. Chippendale 2821, Extn. 49.

Also: Medical Officer of Health for the:

Boroughs of Caine and Malmesbury
and
Rural District of Caine & Chippendale
Rural District of Malmesbury.

Assistant County Medical Officer.

School Medical Officer.

SECRETARY TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

(b)

S.G.V. Williamson, Cert. R.I.P.H.N.

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ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

(c)

G.W. Eisman, Cert. S.I.B.,
Meat & Other Foods Inspector's Cert. R.S.I.
Smoke Inspector's Diploma, R.S.H.
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Meat & Other Foods Inspector's Cert. R.S.I.

The Committee of the Borough Council dealing directly with
Public Health matters is:-

(d)

The Public Health and Highways Committee.

The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,
Chippenham Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1967, in accordance with Regulation 15(5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Since my appointment as your Medical Officer of Health in 1938, there have been great changes and improvements in the Borough, especially in the field of public health.

In 1938, the area of the Borough was 1,197 acres; it is now 1,843 acres: the population was 10,120; it is now 18,640: the number of inhabited houses was 3,229; it is now 6,008: the rateable value was £63,128, it is now £760,807: a penny rate now produces £3,060 instead of £248.

During 1938, thirteen cases of Scarlet Fever, one case of Diphtheria, eight cases of Pneumonia and three cases of Erysipelas were notified, and of these, eighteen cases were admitted to hospital on account of the severity of the illness.

The last confirmed case of Diphtheria occurred in 1954 and the last case of Poliomyelitis in 1962. Provided there is a high rate of acceptance of the immunising procedures now available to children and adults, it is reasonable to anticipate that these dangerous infections can be held in abeyance in the future. The extension of Measles vaccination will still further reduce the amount of sickness in the child population.

Pulmonary tuberculosis is not yet eradicated, and it is essential that the adult population makes full use of the services of the Mass Radiography Unit whenever it is available and that children are immunised against this infection whenever necessary.

Intestinal infections have occupied the Public Health Dept. in detailed bacteriological and environmental investigations. Strict observance in personal hygiene will go far to prevent these infections in the future.

The expectation of life has been raised and more and more of the population, particularly women, can now look forward to a survival to at least three score years and ten - an infrequent event in the past.

The activities of the Council in providing good housing, adequate sewage disposal and refuse collection, a pure water supply, the supervision of the handling and distribution of food, have been major contributions to the present satisfactory state of the public health. The construction of a large modern swimming pool by the Council has without doubt provided a safe alternative to bathing in the River Avon; a practice which was considered to be dangerous to health. The Maternity Home, also established since the end of the war, has met an increasing demand for maternity beds.

This is my last annual report to you as your Medical Officer of Health, and I leave with regret an appointment which I have found to be both interesting and stimulating. My thanks are due to the Council and its Officers for the unfailing courtesy I have always received during my long service.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C.L. BROOMHEAD.

INFANT MORTALITY

A. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres	1,843
Population	18,640
(Estimated Mid-Year Home given by the Registrar General)		
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1967 according to the Rate Book)	6,008
Number of Council dwellings at the end of 1967	..	2,270
Number of applicants for Council dwellings	..	141
Rateable Value	£760,807
Sum represented by the Penny Rate (estimated)	£3,060.

B. VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and Death Rates as compared with other areas

(Births and Deaths per 1,000 population) Standardised*

1. <u>BIRTH AND DEATH RATES</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>		<u>Death Rate</u>	
	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Chippenham Borough	16.9	15.6	10.7	11.6
Calne & Chippenham RDC	20.0	18.8	9.3	9.6
Wiltshire	18.7	17.8	10.4	10.2
England & Wales	17.7	17.2	11.7	11.2

* Comparability figures are supplied to each District by the Registrar General. These take into account the varying age/sex distribution of the population in different parts of the country. When applied to the local rates, they allow a more accurate comparison to be made between different areas.

2. LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male:</u>	<u>Female:</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
Legitimate	140	142	282
Illegitimate	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>20</u>
Totals:	<u>151</u>	<u>151</u>	<u>302</u>

3. STILL BIRTHS

Six still births were notified during 1967. The rate per 1,000 total births is 19; the comparative rate for England and Wales is given by the Registrar General as 14.8

4.

INFANT MORTALITY

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1 year of age	1	2	3
Under 4 weeks of age	1	1	2
Under 1 week of age	-	-	-

Infant Mortality Rate for the District 10
(per 1000 live births)

Comparative Rate for England & Wales 18.3
(per 1000 live births)

There was a decrease in the Infant Mortality Rate for the Borough during 1967, by comparison with the previous year when the rate was 18.1 per 1000 live births. It should be borne in mind that the numbers involved from year to year are small, thus no conclusion can be drawn from such fluctuations.

5.

DEATHS - ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	-	6
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	5	5
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	10	21
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	28	39
Coronary disease, angina	33	20	53
Other heart disease	17	29	46
Other circulatory disease	4	1	5
Pneumonia	4	2	6
Bronchitis	5	2	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Congenital malformations	-	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	10	18
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
All other accidents	1	3	4
Suicide	1	-	1
TOTALS:	<u>105</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>223</u>

Deaths due to Cancer, Coronary Disease and Heart Disease collectively, accounted for more than half the total deaths in the Borough during 1967.

There was a decrease of deaths due to Cancer: 37 deaths from this disease during 1967; 46 deaths during 1966.

C. INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

1. NOTIFICATIONS

Notifiable diseases are those conditions defined in the appropriate Sections of Public Health legislation, and the number is limited.

At present, some notifiable diseases are largely of historic value, and much non-notifiable disease is of greater public health importance. Notification services two main purposes: it is of epidemiological and statistical value to the Ministry of Health, the Registrar General, and major authorities, and it is of immediate importance in the control of infectious disease among the local community.

The following tables give details of cases of notifiable disease, other than tuberculosis, notified during the past four years:

Disease:	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
	(a) (b)	(a) (b)	(a) (b)	(a) (b)

Scarlet Fever	9	9	23	23	25	25	3	3
Whooping Cough	13	13	-	-	2	2	2	2
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	8	8	273	273	58	58	323	323
Dysentery	20	20	7	7	1	-	8	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	12	12	4	4	16	16	6	6
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Cerebro Spinal Fever-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmonella Infections	5	5	6	6	-	-	5	5
TOTALS:	<u>67</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>313</u>	<u>313</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>351</u>	<u>347</u>

(a) = Numbers originally notified.

(b) = Final numbers, after correction.

It will be seen from the above table that no cases of Poliomyelitis, Typhoid Fever, Para-Typhoid Fever, Smallpox or Diphtheria have occurred during the four years covered by this table.

(a) Measles.

The year under review was undoubtedly a "measles year". The majority of the cases occurred during the first quarter of the year and affected children of school age.

(b) Dysentery

Although eight cases were notified, only four were subsequently confirmed following bacteriological investigation. These were sporadic cases and it was not possible to establish a common source of infection.

(c) Food Poisoning

The four cases shewn in the table formed part of an outbreak in Wales during July. The organism responsible for the illness was established by the Laboratory to be Salmonella Typhi-murium.

(d) Salmonella Infections

It was not possible to establish a common source of infection.

2. TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year under review, two new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and one case of tuberculous glands were notified and confirmed by the Chest Physician. Environmental reports were completed in each case; follow up of family contacts is carried out by the County Chest Physician.

In addition to the new cases notified each year, a certain number of tuberculous persons either move into the Borough, or move out. According to the Register of Tuberculous Persons, the following notified and confirmed cases were living in the Borough at the end of 1967.

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total</u>
Respiratory	16	19	35
Non-Respiratory	7	19	26
Total	<u>23</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>61</u>

3. PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Under Section 26 of the National Health Service Act, 1948, provision for vaccination against Smallpox, Diphtheria and such other diseases as the Minister may approve, is the responsibility of the County Council Health Committee. Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus, is available from one's family doctor and from County Council Child Welfare Immunisation Clinics. Triple antigen is now universally used and a course of injections with vaccine protects infants against all these diseases. With older children, vaccine immunising against Diphtheria and Tetanus, or tetanus alone is available. Polio. vaccination, using Sabin oral vaccine is offered at Clinics and by General Practitioners. Smallpox vaccination is carried out by the General Practitioners at their patient's request.

I am indebted to Dr. C.D.L. Lycett, the County Medical Officer of Health for the following figures concerning immunisation and vaccination procedures carried out in the Chippenham Borough during the year.

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus

<u>Year of birth</u>		<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962-1952-</u>	<u>Others</u>
							<u>1958 1957</u>	<u>under</u>
								<u>16</u>
Primary imms completed during 1967.	Diph.	142	121	4	1	2	10	1
	Wh/c	141	121	3	-	-	-	-
	Tet	142	121	4	2	2	14	13
Reinf.injects. administered during 1967.	Diph.	-	48	108	14	16	209	2
	Wh/c	-	32	67	7	5	29	2
	Tet	-	48	109	16	22	219	21

Vaccination against Smallpox

		<u>Months.</u>				<u>Years</u>		
<u>Age Group</u>		<u>0-3</u>	<u>3-6</u>	<u>6-9</u>	<u>9-12</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2-4</u>	<u>5-15</u>
Vaccinations		8	6	2	16	165	36	9
Re-								
Vaccinations		-	-	-	-	-	3	10

3. PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION. (Continued)

Poliomyelitis Immunisation Statistics.

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>3rd. Quad Inj.</u>	<u>2nd. Inj. or 4</u>	<u>3rd. inj Quad Inj.</u>	<u>4th 3 oral doses</u>	<u>2 orals after 2 injs.</u>	<u>4th.oral after 3 inj or 3 oral.</u>
1967	-	-	-	-	138	-
1966	-	-	-	-	133	41
1965	-	-	-	-	15	61
1964	-	-	-	-	6	-
1963	-	-	-	-	4	17
1958-1962	-	-	-	-	48)	204
					2)	
1952-1957	-	-	-	-	1	-
Others under 16	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others over 16	-	-	-	-	10	4
TOTALS	-	-	-	-	357	327

D. LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES.

The County Health Committee provide the following Health Services:-

1. The care of expectant and nursing mothers and young children.
2. Provision of Midwives and Maternity Nurses.
3. Provision of Health Visitors. A new development is the arrangement whereby Health Visitors will work in closer liason with General Practitioners.
4. Home Nurses.
5. Arrangements for vaccination and immunisation.
6. Ambulances.
7. Mental Health Services.
8. Home Helps. Such help is available if members of a household are ill, lying-in, suffering from mental illness or aged. A charge may be made for such services.
9. Arrangements for the prevention of illness, care and after-care.
10. Health Education.

COUNTY HEALTH CLINIC

The new County Council Health Clinic at Goldney Avenue, opened on the 15th. June, 1964 and provides the following services:-

Infant Welfare & Welfare Foods: Immunisation against Poliomyelitis and Diphtheria: Chiropody: School Medical Officer's Clinic: Speech Therapy: Child Guidance: Remedial Exercises: Orthopaedic: Teacher for Partially Deaf Children: Family Planning Association: Mothercraft: Dental: Cervical Cytology.

E.

HOUSING

As in previous years, the addition of medical points has been recommended to a number of applications for housing accommodation, following receipt of medical evidence of illness and or disability in respect of either the applicant or a member of his family living with him; the highest medical priority has been given to applicants suffering from tuberculosis or some other serious illness or disability.

The following detail has been supplied by the Council's Housing Manager, Mr. G. Gale.

NEW PROPERTIES (including Pensioners' Bungalows and Flats)

Tenants from married quarters to be demolished	5	
Existing tenants transferred	13	
Applicants from waiting list	51	
Mid-Wilts Hospital Management Committee	1	
Demolition	1	
Air Ministry (Hullavington) allocation	<u>1</u>	<u>72</u>

EXISTING PROPERTIES.

Tenants from married quarters to be demolished	25	
Applicants from waiting list (including pensioner accommodation)	53	
Admiralty employees	12	
Air Ministry (Hullavington) allocation	1	
Staff allocation	3	
Demolition	<u>3</u>	<u>97</u>

NUMBER OF PROPERTIES AT 31st. DECEMBER, 1967.

Houses	1862	
Flats	<u>190</u>	2052
Aged persons' bungalows	173	
Aged persons' flats	24	
Avonside Grouped Dwelling	<u>21</u>	<u>218</u>
		<u>2270</u>
Caravan sites	18	
Garages	517	

During the year 15 applicants were rehoused for the following reasons:

Demolition Orders 4; Court Orders 6; Medical Officer of Health's recommendations 5.

In addition, 14 mutual exchanges were approved and 27 tenants were transferred for various reasons from one dwelling to another.

10 caravan sites were vacated and 7 were relet during the year.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL, REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

I am grateful to Mr. O.E.W. Street, the Borough Surveyor, for the following information:-

Sewage Disposal

1. The two sewage disposal works at Westmead and Patterdown serve the Borough and the fringe area.
2. The contract for Stage 11 consisting of surface water drainage from the Northern section of the Borough has been completed.
3. Stage 111 - Patterdown Sewerage Area is at present with the Ministry for consideration and consists of the following:-
 - (a) The construction of $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the new disposal plant near Lower Lodge Farm.
 - (b) A new 48" to 24" diameter trunk outfall sewer from the new works to Bath Road including twin inverted syphons under the river.
 - (c) The replacement of existing over-loaded and defective foul sewers between Bath Road and the Loyalty Street area.
 - (d) The laying of surface water sewers in Bath Road, Ladyfield Road, Sheldon Road, Loyalty Street etc. and Woodlands Road to take the surface water out of the foul sewers. This is to avoid further disturbance in the same area at a later date.
4. The effluents from the Westmead and Patterdown Sewage Disposal Works are discharged to the River Avon.
5. Attached are photostat copies of the Bristol Avon River Board's examination of final effluents from Westmead and Patterdown Sewage Works.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Refuse collection in the Borough continues to be operated with the two covered vehicles. House and trade refuse is collected weekly and additional collections are made from premises such as cafes, food and fish shops, etc. where food is handled. This work is under continuous review to re-route collections to deal with new houses in the Borough.

Refuse disposal is by controlled tipping at Westmead. The handling and covering of refuse is done mechanically.

Full use is made of insecticides in connection with refuse collection and tip dressing. The eradication of rats is undertaken under the supervision of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF SAMPLES OF EFFLUENT.

Patterdown Sewage Works. - sampled on 29 Aug 67. Recent weather
Dry.

Physical characteristics: pH 7.2

Slightly cloudy, pale grey/brown in colour with appreciable brown suspended matter present

Chemical characteristics.

	<u>Milligrams per litre</u> <u>(Parts per million)</u>
Biochemical oxygen demand in 5 days at 20° C.	24
Oxygen absorbed from N/80 KMnO ₄ in 4 hours @20° C.	16.1
W.P.R.L. field-test permanganate range	-
Albuminoid nitrogen	2.8
Ammoniacal nitrogen	12.4
Nitrite nitrogen	0.8
Nitrate nitrogen	21.2
Suspended solids	36
Chloride radical	71.

Westmead Sewage Works. - sampled 29 Aug 67. Recent weather -Dry.

Physical characteristics:

Clear colourless with appreciable brown suspended matter present.

Chemical characteristics.

Biochemical oxygen demand in 5 days @ 20° C.	15
Oxygen absorbed from N/80 KMnO ₄ in 4 hours @ 27° C	9.6
W.P.R.L. field-test permanganate range	-
Albuminoid nitrogen	1.2
Ammoniacal nitrogen	1.0
Nitrite nitrogen	Nil
Nitrate nitrogen	14.0
Suspended solids	23
Chloride radical	71

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the year 1967

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Chippenham.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with much pleasure that I present this, my first Annual Report in respect of the work of the Department during 1967.

We live in a changing world and with the rising tempo of modern life, it is becoming increasingly important to ensure that the environment in which we live work and play, is kept free from those hazards which either directly, or indirectly, adversely affect the health of the individual. The World Health Organisation, shortly after its inception, defined Health as meaning 'A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity'.

If we are to attain this target, then in our own particular field we must be constantly on the alert for new proposals or processes which could adversely affect standards of environmental health in the town.

During the year some 505 complaints or requests for assistance were received from members of the public or businesses in the town, and 2,995 visits were made to homes and other premises. These figures reflect the close relationship which must exist between the public and this Department and although much of our work is inevitably concerned with the enforcement of laws laid down by Parliament, increasingly we are being called upon to advise and assist on matters relating to health.

As always, legislation tends to lag behind public opinion in environmental health matters, and it is interesting to regard the growing use of Codes of Practice and British Standards as a means of bridging this gap. Normally they have no statutory backing, but in our role as advisers, they do serve a useful purpose in setting out reasonable standards, particularly for the Food Industry.

In conclusion, I must express my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation which has been so readily and generously extended to me by Members and Officers of the Council during the year.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

A.E.Eames.

Senior Public Health Inspector

SANITARY SURVEY OF THE DISTRICT

Definition

Sanitary means 'of or pertaining to the conditions affecting health'

OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY.

This definition has been included in order to clarify certain misconceptions which can arise from the use of the term 'sanitary'. In Public Health it should not be restricted to the narrow interpretation of 'drains' which is a legacy from the early 19th. Century endeavours of Chadwick and other reformers to awaken public interest in the subject, but rather as a reference to the wider field of Environmental Health.

TABLE I

Summary of Inspections and Other Visits to Premises

Housing	345
Housing - Multiple Occupation	23
Housing - Moveable Dwellings	33
Public Health - General, including nuisances	223
Drainage	169
Food Premises	308
Licensed Premises	12
Mobile Shops/Market Stalls	148
Milk Distributors and Dairies	24
Sampling of Food	183
Slaughterhouses	653
Offices and Shops	190
Atmospheric Pollution	75
Noise Abatement	105
Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning	96
Factories	14
Pest and Rodent Control (excluding those made by the operative)	148
Water Supply and Sampling	100
Swimming Pool	12
Miscellaneous	134

2,995

As a result of these visits 393 notices were complied with during the year.

HOUSING

The housing situation is considered under three main headings, and I am indebted to the Town Clerk, Borough Surveyor and Housing Estates Manager for various statistics which have been used in compiling this section of the Report.

A. Provision of an adequate supply of new houses

TABLE II

Number of new houses and flats completed

	1967	1966	Average last 10 years
a) By local authority	66	241	83
b) By private enterprise	66	67	88
Total	132	308	171

TABLE IIINumber of applicants on Housing List

	1967	1966
a) Number of applicants on general list	141	203
b) Applicants for Aged Persons accommodation	86	61
Total	227	264

TABLE IVStock of houses

	1967	1966
Net gain in the number of dwellings after allowance has been made for those demolished.	23 (0.37%)	115 (1.9%)

The fall in the number of new houses completed is more marked in the public sector over the period 1966/1967, but a comparison with the average number completed annually during the past 10 years indicates a fall in both the private and public sectors.

The number of applicants on the General Housing List also fell sharply and these comparisons indicate that the backlog in the demand for housing has been largely satisfied. It remains to be seen whether this is a transient phase due to current economic and development difficulties, but in any case, as far as the specialised field of Aged Persons Accommodation is concerned, the demand continues to rise and it seems likely that this trend will continue over the next few years. Private enterprise, with some notable exceptions, such as Housing Associations, has made little contribution in this field and an increasing proportion of local authority new construction will have to be channelled to meeting this demand.

B. The Maintenance, Repair and Improvement of the Stock of older houses

TABLE VInspection of Dwellings

a) Inspected for housing defects	204
b) Number of dwellings found to be unfit for human habitation	44
c) Number of dwellings found to be not in all respects fit for habitation	80
d) Number of dwellings made fit in consequence of informal action	77
e) Number of dwellings made fit in consequence of statutory action under Sec. 9 & 16 of the Housing Act 1957 or Public Health Act 1936	Nil

TABLE VI

Houses in Multiple Occupation

a) Total number of houses in Multiple Occupation	55
b) Number of Inspections	23
c) Number of Notices served	
i) to make good neglect of proper standards	1
ii) to require additional services or facilities	7
iii) direction on overcrowding	2
iv) number of control orders made	Nil

Number of tenancies	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Number of houses	32	11	8	1	1	-	2

TABLE VII

Improvement of Houses1) Standard Grants

1. Number of applications	(a) Owner/occupiers	
	Approved	9
	Refused	-
	(b) Tenanted houses	
	Approved	-
	Refused	-
2. Number of dwellings improved	(a) Owner/occupiers	9
	(b) Tenanted	-
3. Amount paid in grants in respect of No.2 above		£468.14. 0
4. Average grant per house		£78. 2. 4
5. Amenities provided	(a) Fixed bath	3
	(b) Shower	-
	(c) Wash Hand Basin	4
	(d) Hot water supply (to any fittings)	6
	(e) Water-Closet	4
	(f) Food Store	3

2) Discretionary Grants

1. Number of applications approved	4
2. Number of applications refused	-
3. Amount paid in grants	£1,093. 0. 0
4. Average grant per house	£273. 5. 0
5. Number of dwellings improved	
	(a) Owner/occupier
	4
	(b) Tenanted
	-

3) Local Authority owned houses improved during the year

117

Maintenance, Repair and Improvement of the Stock of older houses

There are an estimated 1,500 dwellings in the town constructed prior to 1919, or about 25% of the total stock of houses and it is with these ageing houses that the Department has been primarily concerned with maintaining them in a reasonable state of repair.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that there is no point in securing the repair of these houses unless one also ensures that they are provided with at least the five standard amenities.

The process of repair and improvement must proceed hand in hand if these houses are to be brought up to modern standards and further decay arrested.

The proportion of private rented property is falling steadily and as these houses are acquired by owner occupiers, there are considerable problems in financing their repair and improvement. The lower initial purchase price is often counterbalanced by heavy and continuing maintenance costs, a fact that is not always appreciated by intending purchasers.

Despite these difficulties, it is imperative that the rate at which these older houses are being improved is increased, and logically the best way of doing this is by means of formal or informal improvement areas. The Council is progressively improving its own stock of pre-war accommodation and a further 114 houses were modernised during the year.

There is little multiple-occupation in the town probably due to the fact that we are fortunate in not having the rows of three-storey Victorian terraced houses which are common in many other parts of the country. In those cases where unsatisfactory conditions are found, every effort is made to reduce the number of persons occupying the house to ensure that there is no overcrowding in relation to the facilities provided, and secondly, to ensure that proper facilities and services are provided and maintained for each family.

C. Clearance of Unfit Dwellings

TABLE VIII

Proceedings under Sections 16 and 23 Housing Act 1957

1. Number of Demolition Orders made	-
2. Number of Houses demolished as a result of Demolition Orders	2
3. Number of Local Authority houses demolished	94
4. Number of Closing Orders made or undertakings accepted	13
5. Number of families rehoused	37
6. Number of persons rehoused	124

Proceedings under Section 42 Housing Act 1957

1. Number of houses demolished as a result of Clearance Area procedure	Nil
2. Number of houses in Clearance Areas awaiting confirmation	26

The last of the war-time married quarters have now been demolished and with the exception of 46 prefabricated bungalows which are scheduled for early replacement, the Council can now give their full attention to the private sector.

The original slum clearance programme was prepared in 1953 and inevitably, since that date, there has been further deterioration in the condition of the older houses in the town. I have already made reference to the need to prevent such deterioration, but this work must be co-ordinated with a progressive policy of dealing with unfit houses which are so obsolete or worn out as to be incapable of being made into decent homes.

During the past year one fairly large clearance area comprising 26 houses was surveyed and is now awaiting confirmation from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. In addition a number of other houses were dealt with individually.

Proposals to provide a central car park will involve the removal of seven sub-standard houses. They were vacated during the year and are now awaiting demolition.

Fair progress has, therefore, been sustained in dealing with unfit dwellings, but it is a matter of some concern that there has been considerable delay in confirming the Clearance Area, despite the fact that all objections were withdrawn. This has inevitably caused difficulties to the tenants and to the Local Authority in programming the re-housing of the occupants.

Overcrowding

There were no cases of statutory overcrowding during the year, but this is scarcely surprising when one considers that the standard was devised to meet conditions existing 30 years ago which, happily, no longer exist.

There is, however, the ever present danger of overcrowding in houses let in multiple occupation, particularly in relation to the amenities available for use. Action, however, is taken under the Housing Act 1961 to deal with this type of situation rather than the older provisions which are so outdated.

Rent Act 1957

No Certificates of Disrepair were issued under this Act.

Moveable Dwellings

TABLE 1X

Private licensed sites used during the year

Foghamshire	3
Ladyfield Nurseries	1
Bath Road	1
180, Sheldon Road	1
52, Lowden	1

Council owned Sites

Greenway Lane	4
Bath Road	13

Sites exempted from licensing requirements

30 Frogwell	1
67 Hill Corner Road	2
Ivy Lane	2

With two exceptions, all these sites were used as permanent residential accommodation and have been so used for many years.

As a site licence expires, their conditions are being given a critical re-appraisal and sub-standard facilities, reminiscent of 'shanty towns' will no longer be tolerated for these permanent sites.

There will always be a place for good modern caravans and sites, but only if proper amenities broadly comparable to those provided for other forms of housing, are available for the occupants.

PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

TABLE X

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. of premises newly registered during the year	Total No. of premises registered at end of year	Registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during year
Offices	1	62	14
Retail shops	6	161	29
Wholesale shops, and warehouses	1	5	3
Catering establishments open to public, and canteens	8	22	14
Fuel storage depots	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	16	250	60

Number of visits of all kinds (including general inspections) to registered premises

190

Analysis by workplace of persons employed in registered premises at end of year

Class of workplace

Number of persons employed

Offices
Retail shops
Wholesale departments, and warehouses
Catering establishments open to public
Canteens
Fuel storage depots

	911
	920
	122
	124
	15
	Nil
Total	2,092
Total Males	1,139
Total Females	953

Number of inspectors appointed under Section 52(1) of the Act

4 Public Health Inspectors.

TABLE XI

Analysis of Contraventions found

<u>Section</u>	<u>No. of Contraventions found</u>	
4	Cleanliness	18
6	Temperature	1
7	Ventilation	11
8	Lighting	7
9	Sanitary conveniences	11
10	Washing facilities	10
12	Clothing accommodation	6
16	Floors, passages & stairs	9
17	Fencing exposed parts of machinery	9
24	First aid	6
	Other matters	9
	Total	97

TABLE XII

Reported Accidents

<u>Workplace</u>	<u>No. Reported Non Fatal</u>	<u>No. Invest- igated</u>	<u>Formal Warning</u>	<u>Informal Advice</u>	<u>No Action</u>
Retail Shops	4	3	-	2	1
Catering estab. open to public, canteens	1	1	1	-	-

Analysis of reported accidents

	<u>Retail Shops</u>	<u>Catering establishments open to public, canteens</u>
Falls of persons	2	1
Handling goods	1	-
Use of hand tools	1	-

Occupiers of premises subject to the Act are still very dilatory in submitting registration forms when they move into new premises, a reminder from this department being usually necessary before the registration is forthcoming.

With the virtual completion of the original inspection, it has been possible to give greater attention to the construction and operation of electrical and mechanical equipment used in offices and shops. It is clear that electrical equipment is not being properly maintained and this aspect needs careful consideration by inspectors. All power operated equipment must be checked to ensure that safety requirements are satisfied. Little used or obsolete office machines may be particularly dangerous, not so much from moving parts as from the lack of proper earthing, worn or perished insulation and incorrect fitting or adaption. The possibility of an electrical fault giving rise to a dangerous situation for an operator is then very real.

Amongst other items receiving special attention this year were Water Heating Systems in Launderettes (L.A. Circ.7. Sup.13 refers), Lifts and Hoists and the lighting in offices which had not received detailed consideration in the original survey.

As far as lighting standards are concerned, it has been my experience that the Illuminating Engineering Society's Code provides a realistic and generally acceptable basis for the variety of situations found in premises subject to the Act.

All gravity feed slicers used for cutting food should now have been fitted with improved guards but there is still resistance, particularly from the older employees in the trade, to the adoption of safe procedures whilst cleaning these machines.

Posters were distributed in connection with the prevention of accidents during the year, and it is hoped to improve publicity in this sphere in order to both prevent accidents and to ensure that we are notified when they do occur.

Factories Act 1961

Only limited parts of this act are administered by local authorities, the main provisions being the responsibility of Her Majesty's Inspector of Factories.

TABLE X111

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health

<u>Premises</u>	No. on Regis- ter.	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1) Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	12	-	-	-
2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7. is enforced by the local authorities	62	14	4	-
3) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	74	14	4	-

Cases in which defects were found

<u>Particulars</u>	No. of cases found	No. of cases remedied
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Unsuitable or defective	4	2

Outworkers

Section 133

Nature of work.	No. of out- workers in August, list required by Sec.133(1)c.	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of prose- cutions for failing to supply lists	No. of inst- ances of work in unwhole- some premises
Wearing Apparel (Making)	2	-	-	-

Outworkers (Cont'd)

Section 134

Notices served	Nil
Prosecutions	Nil

PEST CONTROL

1. Rodents

This comprises the bulk of our work under the heading of Pest Control. The pattern of infestation in the town is being studied with a view to organising surveys in these areas to prevent any reinfestation. Not all infestations are notified to this department and as a result an individual premises may be treated when a block treatment would have given far more positive results. The rodent operator is only part time and this does create difficulties due to conflicting priorities.

The treatment of the sewers has been rationalised to reduce costs and yet ensure that there is no reservoir of infestation. Similar surveys and treatments are carried out at the refuse tip, sewage works and water courses, as necessary.

So far there has been no evidence of any resistance to Warfarin, which is the principle bait used, but the situation is being watched closely and here again it would greatly assist if a little more was known of treatments carried out by private companies or individuals.

The following details are in the form required by the Ministry and do not include the sewer treatments -

TABLE XIV

Rodent Control

	Type of Property	
	Non Agricultural	Agricultural
1. No. of properties in the district	7,411	13
2. a) Total number of properties inspected following notification	112	
b) Number infested by -		
i) Rats	99	
ii) Mice	15	
3. Total number of properties inspected for Rats and Mice for reasons other than notification	331	4
4. Number infested		
i) Rats	10	
ii) Mice	2	

2. General

Advice and assistance was given in respect of the following infestations -

Wasps	36
Cluster Flies	5
Cockroaches	1

Wasps were particularly troublesome and a cause of considerable distress and concern where children or persons allergic to their stings were concerned.

A number of complaints were also received regarding Rabbits and Moles. These are normally considered to be agricultural pests, but there are indications that the former are certainly establishing themselves in urban areas.

A complaint of Adders at a school caused some concern, but fortunately they departed as suddenly as they came.

3. Pesticides

Considerable care should be taken in the use of pesticides in both commercial and domestic premises. A number of the more persistent insecticides have been withdrawn from general use and it is becoming increasingly difficult to advise on methods of dealing with pests in food premises. There is still a lot of ignorance and carelessness in the use of Pesticides and people do not realise that they are handling poisonous substances. Manufacturers are beginning to be more forthcoming with regard to labelling and instruction in accordance with Government recommendations, but we have a long way to go before all the potential hazards associated with the use of persistent pesticides can be eliminated.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Meat Inspection

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough and at both premises there has been an increase in the number of animals slaughtered. This has been particularly noticeable at the bacon factory where due to re-organisation in the industry the kill increased by 22.6%.

The existing staff were unable to effectively carry out their responsibilities under the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963, and the establishment was increased by the addition of a Meat Inspector

One of the more difficult problems is associated with the high rate of kill at the bacon factory and the resulting fatigue for the staff. Re-allocation of duties and rotation of the staff will go some way towards meeting these problems but it is difficult to reconcile the need for increased output per man hour with the proper inspection of carcasses and offal.

There is a lack of simple laboratory facilities in this field for the bacteriological examination of suspect carcasses and every effort will be made to ensure an improvement in these facilities.

TABLE XV

Number of Animals Slaughtered

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Wiltshire Bacon Co.				87,026	87,026
River Street, Slaughterhouse	1,728	12	2,640	1,216	5,596
Total	1,728	12	2,640	88,242	92,622

TABLE XVI

Carcases and Offal inspected and details of Condemnations

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	1,728	12	2,640	88,242
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	2	120
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	211	1	27	6,234
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci	12.2	8.3	1.1	7.2
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	1,242
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.05	-	-	1.4
<u>Cysticercosis</u>				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	15	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refriger- ation	15	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with Cysticercosis	0.9	-	-	-

Cysticercus Bovis

The location of the cysts found during the routine examination of bovine carcasses and organs was as follows:

Head - External Masseter Muscles	8
Tongue	1
Heart - Endocardium	4
Skirt - Diaphragm	2

All the carcasses and offal were refrigerated at a Cold Store in Devizes in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations.

Weight of Meat and Offal Condemned

	Tons.	Cwt.	lbs.
Meat	19	5	35
Offal	24	11	61
Total	43	16	96

2. Other Foods

TABLE XVII

Unsound Food surrendered or condemned at Wholesale or Retail premises

	Tons.	Cwt.	lbs.
Meat		2	62
Bacon		14	62
Cooked Meat			68
Canned Goods		6	30
Other Foods		5	73
Total	1	9	71

The increasing use of cardboard cartons instead of wooden boxes appears to have increased the proportion of damaged canned goods at food shops, and although the greater proportion of these are sound, there is a danger that the unsoundness may be overlooked and a 'blown' can confused with a damaged can. Many manufacturers operate their own systems of return for damaged goods and this is to be commended providing the retailers keep such goods completely separate from their other stock and do not delegate this work to a junior employee.

It is important that in any case of doubt they should call in the Public Health Inspector who will be able to advise them on the fitness or otherwise of the food.

3. Disposal of Condemned Meat and Offal

All condemned meat and offal, with the exception of a limited amount of liver, is collected by specialist processing contractors for conversion into animal feeding stuffs and fertilisers, at plants located in Calne and the Bristol area.

The liver is despatched in sealed containers to a Trout Farm where it is used for feeding purposes. The remainder of the condemned meat and other foods is collected and destroyed at the Corporation Tips.

4. Slaughter of Animals Act 1958

27 persons were licensed to slaughter animals by the use of approved equipment.

New applicants are interviewed and the requirements of the Act carefully explained before they are considered for a licence.

All animals are slaughtered by humane methods which ensure that they are first rendered insensible by means of a captive bolt pistol or by the passing of an electric current across two electrodes before the jugular vein and arteries are severed.

5. Consumer Complaints regarding Food

Consumer complaints regarding unsound food or foreign matter in food are undoubtedly on the increase.

Each complaint was the subject of a thorough investigation and as a result, a number of cases of negligence or evidence of the lack of simple precautions, came to light.

Firm action was taken to ensure that immediate improvements were instituted by the companies concerned.

Strict attention to stock rotation and temperature control is imperative and the food industry must do everything possible to ensure that their products are manufactured and marketed correctly. The retailer, who is the last stage in the food distribution chain, has a particular responsibility for ensuring that he and his staff adhere strictly to the manufacturers, or our own, recommendations for handling perishable commodities.

Although it is very often possible to secure the necessary improvements by informal action, the law provides for specific offences in such cases, and legal proceedings remain the ultimate sanction to ensure that the companies concerned realise their obligations to the consumer.

There is some evidence that public opinion is hardening on this matter, and unless the food industry responds to this demand, then the number of prosecutions is likely to rise in the future.

The problem of returnable containers and their gross abuse by the public, remains a serious matter to the dairy and soft drink industry. Until such time as non-returnable containers become an economic proposition, we are likely to continue to get misuse of food containers, and it is up to the industry to ensure that their spotting techniques, i.e., electronic scanners, are up to date, and the design of containers themselves is such that misuse is avoided or, when it takes place, the offending container can be spotted and rejected.

TABLE XVIII

Food Complaints

<u>Item</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>No.</u>
Milk Bottles	5	Soft Drink Bottles	3
Eggs	2	Frozen Food	1
Pre-packed Bacon	3	Canned Meat	3
Canned Vegetables	2	Bread - Wrapped	4
Confectionery	2	Flour	1
Clotted Cream	2	Ham	1
Coqan Vin	1	Rabbit	1
Bacon	1		

Consumer Complaints. Cont'd.

Legal proceedings were taken in one instance following the sale of a Soft Drink contaminated by petrol, and the investigation indicated that the petrol vapour was retained by the rubber seal in the plastic cap.

These caps are not capable of proper cleaning and inspection and their use should be discontinued.

The company concerned were fined £15 and costs.

6. Food Hygiene

308 visits were made to the various premises in the town and details of contraventions are set out below.

A start was also made in a detailed survey of the licensed houses. In addition to liquid foods, there is a growing tendency for snacks and other food to be provided and in many of the smaller houses it is inevitable that there is no clear demarcation between the domestic and licensed side of the premises. Facilities for the public vary and it is difficult to justify the provision of improved washing facilities for customers when one learns of the wanton damage caused to such fittings by vandals.

Considerable problems have been caused by the growing volume of refuse, particularly packaging material from the larger shops. Owners are being pressed to improve baling facilities to reduce the bulk, and wherever possible, more frequent collections are arranged through the Borough Surveyor. Private contractors appear to be little interested in salvage and it seems likely that in the interests of public health, refuse will have to be collected twice or even three times a week from such premises.

TABLE XIX.a.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

	<u>Contraventions</u>
1. Part II - General requirements	7
2. Part III - Requirements relating to persons engaged in the handling of food	21
3. Part IV - Requirements relating to food premises	63
Total	<hr/> 91 <hr/>

Compliance with Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

TABLE XIX b.

Type of Business	No.	Estimated No. fitted to comply with Reg. 16	Estimated No. where Reg. 19 Applies	Estimated No. fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Grocers	41	41	39	38
Hotels, Cafes & Restaurants	17	17	17	17
Canteen, Indust.	6	6	6	6
Bakers & Conf'rs.	7	7	7	7
Fish Fryers	4	4	4	4
Butchers	12	12	12	12
Licensed premises	34	34	34	34
Sweets/Sugar Conf'r	8	8	8	8
Fruit & Vegetables	11	10	10	9
Fishmongers	4	4	4	4
Dairies	4	4	4	4

Note

In a number of the older small premises, washing facilities required under Regulations 16 & 19 may be sited in, and utilised in conjunction with, the adjoining living accommodation.

It is the practice in all new premises, and wherever practicable in the older premises, to ensure that separate facilities are provided solely for use in connection with the food business.

7. Food Premises Registered by the Local Authority

Preparation or manufacture of specified foods	24
Manufacture and sale of ice cream	3
Sale and storage of ice cream	49

8. Mobile Vehicles and Stalls

Food Hygiene (Market Stall and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966

These regulations came into force this year and greatly strengthened the control of vehicles and stalls.

148 visits were made by Inspectors and 20 Notices served.

The condition of mobile shops varies considerably, and they retail a wide variety of foods. Many of these vehicles are converted vans or buses and lack adequate insulation and ventilation which is a serious disadvantage when they handle perishable products.

The general market, which includes a number of food stalls, was re-organised to facilitate compliance with the regulations and washing facilities were provided for the food handlers in a pre-fabricated building adjoining the stalls.

The restricted area of the stalls has created difficulties in restraining stall-holders from spreading their displays on to the passage ways.

9. Milk and Dairies

For the first time, Ultra Heat Treated milk in triangular cartons is being marketed in the area under various brand names.

This milk has a long shelf life and can be stored quite satisfactorily at ambient temperatures. It does not have the disadvantage of the slightly burnt flavour associated with sterilised milk, although its keeping qualities are comparable, at least as far as normal turnover is concerned.

Arrangements are being made for routine bacteriological sampling to take place as soon as the Laboratory is equipped to deal with the statutory test.

TABLE XX

Number of Registered Dairies	4
Number of Registered Distributors	18
Number of Untreated Dealer's Licences	2
Number of Pasteuriser's/Steriliser's Licences	2
Number of Dealer's Pre-packed Licences	18
Number of samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory :-	
Untreated	12*
Pasteurised	44
Sterilised	4
Biological	4
Number of inspections made during the year	50

* One sample failed the test and the resulting investigation indicated poor stock control at one distribution centre, which has now been corrected.

Brucella Abortus

i) Number of samples of raw milk examined	12
ii) Number of Positive samples found	Nil

10. Bacteriological Sampling of Meat Products

There are at present no proper bacteriological standards for meat products and although some pioneer work has been carried out in this field, this lack of a standard has made it very difficult to correctly assess the results of the investigation.

Certain meat products are known to be particularly susceptible to bacterial multiplication and in my view it was important to concentrate on these products in order to obtain a true picture of the situation. Here in Chippenham we have restricted samples to Ham, Cooked Brisket and Silverside.

The work so far completed has indicated that many of the samples have high bacterial counts, far and away above what would be considered acceptable.

Bacteriological Sampling of Meat Products. Cont'd...

These samples were consumer samples taken from display counters at retail outlets. Investigation into these samples indicated that contamination and/or bacterial multiplication could take place at a number of points :-

- 1) The Factory
- 2) In transit
- 3) Depot and Delivery Vans
- 4) Shop

As a result of our work to date, we have had discussions with a number of large manufacturers, and in each case, factory techniques have been reviewed and improvements made in manufacturing and packing processes.

Transport arrangements varied considerably, and evidence was found of undue delay, particularly where common carriers are concerned.

In the shops themselves, refrigeration equipment was found to be unreliable or not operating correctly and meat products were still not being kept under refrigeration even when proper facilities were available. Staff did not at first appreciate the need for strict hygiene and correct handling of these products.

As far as the slicing equipment was concerned, this was another factor in the spread of contamination, and routine bacteriological tests will be introduced next year. There has already been a striking improvement in the cleaning and sterilisation of equipment in those shops where our sampling has been concentrated. Meat products may also be stored too long at the shop prior to sale, and age does tend to be associated with the higher counts.

The work so far is incomplete and the investigation is now being concentrated on establishing where this bacterial multiplication or contamination takes place and what sort of bacterial counts occur when the food is correctly handled and processed.

A number of authorities are co-ordinating their work in this field and it is hoped to establish acceptable criteria in due course.

TABLE XXI

Summary of Consumer Samples

Summary of Consumer Samples							
<u>Ham</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>		<u>Bacterial Count</u>				<u>Coliform Present</u>
			<u>22° C.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>37° C.</u>	<u>%</u>	
<u>Including Fore-end and other joints</u>	<u>33</u>	+50m	5	15%	4	12%	16 (48%)
		10-50m	2	6%	3	9%	
		1-10m	12	36%	10	32%	
		100,000- 1m	11	33%	8	24%	
		10,000-100,000	2	6%	7	20%	
		- 10,000	1	3%	1	3%	
<u>Brisket</u>	<u>8</u>	+50m	3	37%	2	26%	7 (88%)
		10-50m	3	37%	3	37%	
		1-10m	2	26%	3	37%	
		100,000- 1m	-	-	-	-	
		10,000-100,000	-	-	-	-	
		- 10,000	-	-	-	-	
<u>Silverside</u>	<u>4</u>	+50m	-	-	-	-	2 (50%)
		10-50m	2	50%	1	25%	
		1-10m	1	25%	-	-	
		100,000- 1m	-	-	2	50%	
		10,000-100,000	1	25%	1	25%	
		- 10,000	-	-	-	-	

TABLE XXII

Temperature at which Meat Products were displayed or stored at time of sampling

	<u>Storage</u>	<u>Display</u>
-45°F	29 } 80%	22 } 64%
46-50°F	7 }	7 }
51-60°F	8 } 20%	12 } 36%
+61°F	1 }	4 }
	<hr/> 45	<hr/> 45

11. Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

12. Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing plants within the district.

13. Ice Cream

The sampling procedure has been reviewed and the number of samples of pre-packed ice cream marketed by the two principal combines has been drastically reduced.

This type of ice cream is subject to stringent control during manufacture and providing the retailer maintains his conservator in good order there is little likelihood of any sample failing the test. A more selective sampling procedure has been adopted whereby attention is directed at local producers, retailers of soft or open ice cream and mobile vans.

Mobile ice cream retailers remain the more serious problem because they tend to employ part-time labour, particularly at week-ends, and moreover, labour which has no more than a rudimentary knowledge of the importance of strict hygiene control of the equipment used to manufacture ice cream on the vans.

TABLE XXIII

Number of samples - Soft Ice Cream	16
Number of samples - Other Ice Cream	23
Results - Grade I	38
Grade II	1 (Soft Ice Cream)

WATER SUPPLY

1. 125 samples were taken during the year and in four cases slight evidence of coliform organisms were reported by the Laboratory. In one case the contamination was traced to an adjoining premises where the supply was only used intermittently; in the other instances, the investigation proved inconclusive.

Tests for residual chlorine were also taken and on eleven occasions no residual chlorine could be detected in the supply.

The supply to Chippenham is drawn from several sources which, with one exception, have given consistently excellent results. Attention is therefore being directed to this particular supply and our sampling procedure has been modified accordingly.

2. Swimming Pool

The open air swimming pool and paddling pool at Monkton Park were visited weekly during the season and 30 samples taken to check the levels of free Chlorine, and to ensure that the Ph of the water was satisfactory.

The water was clean and sparkling at all times and temporary fluctuations in Chlorine and Ph levels were promptly rectified.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

1. Domestic Pollution

All new domestic heating installations must be capable of being operated smokelessly and this, coupled with the greater use of central heating, has meant that there is no reason why all new estates in the town should not be smoke control areas. As far as the older houses are concerned, although there is some evidence that the use of raw bituminous fuel, that arch enemy of clean air, is declining, the trend is not fast enough. Domestic pollution can and should be prevented.

Some complaints have been received regarding the emission of fumes from domestic oil heating plants. It is important that this equipment is regularly serviced to ensure that it is operating correctly and suitable arrangements can usually be made through your fuel suppliers.

2. Industrial and Commercial Pollution

During the year, eight premises were visited following excessive emissions of dark smoke, and the occupiers advised on how to reduce or avoid contraventions of this nature. In six cases, grit, dust or acid smuts were emitted from incinerators or boiler installation. In one instance, Crown property was concerned and it is anticipated that a new incinerator will be installed. In the other instances, modifications to the plant has dealt with the nuisance.

Considerable work of the department is with a view to preventing air pollution and new installations are carefully considered, both regarding the plant to be installed and the height of the chimney from which the products of combustion are to be discharged.

It is not only the visible pollution with which we are concerned, but the invisible gases such as Sulphur Dioxide, which although it cannot be seen, is just as damaging to health.

We do not have the necessary instruments to measure pollution in the town, but likewise, we have no reason to be complaisant particularly in view of the large industrial users in the centre of the town. and the 75 visits made by inspectors give some idea of the growing importance of this work.

TABLE XXIV

Section 3. New Installations

a) Number of notifications	14
b) Applications for prior approval	1
c) Alterations required	4

TABLE XXIV Cont'd.

Sec.6. New Installations - Grit and Dust

a) Number of plans submitted and approved	Nil
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Sec.10. Chimney Heights

a) Number of plans showing new chimneys	7
b) Number of cases in which alterations were required	5
c) Number approved	6
d) Number of chimneys erected not subject to control	4

3. Pollution from Road Vehicles

The completion of the Severn Bridge has increased the pollution from this source which is particularly evident in the congested High Street and Market Place as the heavy lorries climb the hill or move away from the traffic lights.

A more positive approach by the Ministry of Transport and the Police towards offending vehicles is very necessary.

NOISE

It is in this field that the department is beginning to make progress. Noise and vibration is growing in our urban society; it is invading our privacy and reducing our efficiency at work.

The power output of machines is being raised and little thought is given to the increased noise and vibration problem which may be created.

Your staff paid 105 visits in connection with noise problems and the investigation of the 13 complaints received.

At the early part of the year, extensive road works created appalling conditions where 5 or more pneumatic drills would be operating in close proximity. The department was successful in obtaining the co-operation of Government Departments, County Council, Water Board and all Private Contractors in ensuring that pneumatic drills were muffled, thereby reducing the noise level sharply. The Council also agreed to incorporate a clause requiring the use of muffles on pneumatic drills in all future contracts.

An extremely troublesome noise and vibration problem received a great deal of attention during the year, including special surveys at various times of the day and night and involving the use of complex measuring equipment. Extensive alterations to the interior of the building, coupled with modifications to the plant, has greatly reduced the noise and vibration levels, although the dwelling houses are so close to the installation that some disturbance is still possible, particularly at night-time.

Other complaints were still receiving attention at the end of the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

96 visits of enquiry were made in connection with infectious diseases, intestinal infections and food poisoning.

All known contacts were traced, but only too often the delay in receiving notifications meant that our enquiries were incomplete and no specific cause could be identified.

Although the need for terminal disinfection outside the home is declining, it was still necessary to use the Disinfecting Station on six occasions. The Disinfecting Station has modern equipment and is maintained by this department in a state of constant readiness for use by five authorities in the area who share capital and running costs.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957

The register of licensed premises was reviewed during the year and five persons were removed from the register leaving three premises still licensed. Nine visits were paid during the year but they had to be temporarily suspended towards the end of the year due to Foot and Mouth restrictions.

In my view, processing plants should not be permitted on farms or other premises used for rearing stock. Even with separate buildings there must always be a risk where raw swill is brought into and handled on premises used for rearing stock.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

Two pet shops have been licensed; both premises have been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

DRAINAGE

During the year, 44 sewers or drains were found to be choked or otherwise defective and 169 visits were paid to the premises concerned.

The major upheaval associated with the replacement of old sewers in the town has unfortunately created a number of problems involving the flooding of certain properties and the further over-loading of parts of the existing system. The Council, however, are committed to a phased programme of renewal and providing the programme is carried out with the utmost despatch, then these difficulties are likely to be resolved as the scheme proceeds.

In the meantime, wherever possible temporary measures have been taken to alleviate the surcharging.

HEALTH EDUCATION

In all aspects of Environmental Health it is essential that compulsion is supplemented, and wherever possible replaced, by persuasion. This is particularly important in connection with Food Hygiene and members of my staff are always available to talk to food handlers on this subject. Ignorance in the food trade can be disastrous and clearly a more determined effort will have to be made in order to expand this work. During the past year a number of talks were given to food handlers in the retail Grocery Trade, the School's Meals Service and to Licensed Victuallers. In addition, the wider aspect of our work was discussed by a study group and this involved a two way exchange of ideas.

By and large, members of the public are not aware of much of the work carried out in their name, and for their benefit, in the field of Environmental Health. Frequently their willing co-operation is required and this can only be secured by ensuring that they are better informed.
